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RUSSIA RECALLS 300 TOP AGENTS IN SPY SCARE

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Special Dispatch

WASHINGTON, May 18—Russian intelligence chiefs are so shaken up over Western penetration of their ranks that they have summoned at least 300 of their top operatives back to Moscow for "consultation," it was learned tonight.

Two men have been called back to the Kremlin from Washington, and at least three more are scheduled to leave. One attache has been recalled from Ottawa. Others have been recalled from all over the world.

Whether any of them will be returned to their posts after examination by their superiors in Moscow remains to be seen.

Apparently every Russian attache or civilian intelligence employee who had any contact at any time anywhere in the world with Col. Oleg Penkovsky, executed this week as a traitor in the latest Moscow spy case, has been summoned home. There is little doubt that the colonel, a top man in Soviet intelligence, was in fact a double agent, dealing with the West, as the Russians charged.

Russians Fear FBI

It was equally apparent that in calling their men home the Russians feared not only the British and French secret services and the American Central Intelligence Agency, but also the American Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The CIA operates outside the United States around the world; the FBI keeps tabs on espionage within this country, which makes the recall of two men—with more to go—from the Soviet embassy here, extremely significant as to the importance put upon the Penkovsky case by the Kremlin.

This information was obtained by the Herald Tribune News Service from sources here and abroad which can not be named, but which are considered unimpeachable in the shadowy world of espionage and counter-intelligence.

Few, if any, of the 300 Russians recalled for questioning were declared persona non grata by the host government. The Soviet Union began calling back its people on its own initiative, indicating the fear of further penetration.

Recalled From U.S.

Recalled from the Soviet embassy in Washington April 1 was Lt. Col. Arkadi Y. Golsov, assistant air attache. Also back home is Olegsey Kolchin, formerly employed in the embassy's military attache office, who may or may not have been a civilian.

First to go home to Moscow, when the Penkovsky case started to break, was Col. Anatoli F. Rybackov, assistant air attache at the Soviet embassy in Ottawa.

He and the others are known to have had professional contacts with Penkovsky in the Middle East or elsewhere in the world where the executed officer served.

The Soviet anxiety over intelligence may reflect a mutual distrust within the Kremlin between GRU, the military intelligence branch, and KGB, the civilian apparatus. This in turn probably reflects the power struggle going on between the more moderate civilian leaders and the hard-nosed military men who want military action now without waiting for the promised collapse of the West.

In any case, the recall and possible purge of members of the Communist intelligence apparatus which J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director, has called the most numerous and widespread in the world's history, is a back-handed tribute to the West.

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